

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12390 100955Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P 109855Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4373

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12390

FOLLOWING SENT AMEMBASSY SAIGON JULY 9 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 269

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI MOPS VS

SUBJECT: MR3 ORGANIZES TASK FORCE FOR TRIP TO HOANG SA ISLANDS

1. ONE OF UR USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES AT MR3 HEADQUARTERS THIS MORNING ADVISED US THAT MR3 HAS BEEN ASKED TO ORGANIZE AND COMMAND A TASK FORCE FOR A TRIP TO HOANG SA ISLANDS SCHEDULED TO GET UNDERWAY ON JULY 10. THE TASK FORCE WILL CONSIST OF ARVN ENGINEERS AND COMBAT TROOPS, SUPPORTED AND TRANSPORTED BY RVN SHIPS, AND WILL, DEPENDING ON WHAT HAPPENS, REMAIN FOR 2-3 WEEKS. THE FORMER PHU GIAO DISTRICT CHIEF, LTC CUNG, WILL BE IN COMMAND OF THE OPERATION. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, CUNG WILL BE REQUIRED TO SET UP A TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER FOR A COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH MR3. SOURCE INDICATED THAT SOME FORM OF PERMANENCE WAS PLANNED.

2. OUR SOURCE ALSO TOLD US THAT HOANG SA ISLAND HISTORICALLY HAVE BELONGED TO VIETNAM; HOWEVER, NO ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO THEM SINCE 1955. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TASK FORCE MIGHT ENCOUNTER SOME TAIWANESE WHEN THEY LAND.
(HOANG SA ISLANDS ARE, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN HERE AND THE PHILIPPINES)

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 12390 100955Z

SIGNED WALKINSHAW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON COMMENT:
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED
FROM WALKINSHAW. QUOTE. SOURCE TELLS ME THAT ISLAND
CHAIN (REFTEL) IS IDENTIFIED AS "SPRATELY" (TROUNG SA). ISLAND
TO WHICH TASK FORCE HEADED IS CALLED "NAMYIT ISLAND".
LONGITUDE: EAST 112 DEGREES; LATITUDE NORTH 08 DEGREES.
TASK FORCE LEFT ON SCHEDULE. UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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